

July 31, 2006

**City of Milton-Freewater
City Council WORK SESSION Minutes**

The Council of the City of Milton-Freewater met in special session for an informal work session on Monday, July 31, 2006, in the City Manager's office of City Hall at 3:00 p.m.

The following members were present: Mayor Lewis Key, Councilors Orrin Lyon, Debbie Kelley, Steve Irving, Keith Woods, and Brad Humbert. Youth Councilor Shalee Potts was absent. Staff members present were City Manager Delphine Palmer, Assistant City Manager Linda Hall, Public Works Superintendent Trainee Dave Bradshaw and Finance Director Dave Richmond.

No citizens or members of the press were present.

The first discussion item on the agenda was the exploration of expanding the solid waste system to include 60 gallon receptacles in addition to the current program of 90 gallon and 300 gallon receptacles plus 10, 15, 20, 30 and 40 yard dumpsters.

Dave Bradshaw briefed the Council on the pros and cons of making such a change to the system. He stated the primary pro of the situation would be the gaining of an increase in revenue and the possibility of controlling the waste stream volume in our landfill. He added that it would be expensive to add the 60 gallon cans to our current inventory, and estimates it would cost approximately \$30,000 to \$90,000 depending upon the number of cans initially purchased. The cans would cost \$65 each. The problems with adding this to our inventory would be the large unfunded capital cost, the fact that the cans would tend to blow over easier in windy conditions, that there would be problems with the additional tracking and billing for paperwork, and there would be an additional inventory needed for not only the cans but the parts they need as well.

Councilor Woods asked if the 90 and 60 gallon cans had interchangeable parts.

Mr. Bradshaw replied they did not.

A discussion ensued over the concept.

Councilor Humbert stated it was his proposal that if the 60 gallon cans were added, they would be charged the current rate for 90 gallon cans, and the 90 gallon can rate would be increased.

It was suggested that in order to raise revenue, perhaps the Council could adjust the 90 gallon rate and not incur the debt of purchasing the 60 gallon containers.

Councilor Humbert stated he was concerned for the seniors who were paying full price, yet rarely filled their 90 gallon can.

City Manager Palmer stated that the City did supply a big service to seniors and disabled patrons in which their can is taken out for them and returned to the home for no additional price.

Further discussion ensued.

It was the general consensus of the Council to not make any changes to the garbage service at this time.

Next discussed was the proposal of tying the sewer and water rates together.

It was noted by City Manager Palmer that this subject had actually been discussed before at Council during a November 2004 City Council meeting. The Council had chosen to take no action on the subject at that time.

Mr. Bradshaw went over the evaluation of the proposal. He explained that he and his assistant had prepared a spreadsheet using City Councilors for examples in showing the effect of tying the sewer rate proportionately to the number of gallons of water used. The spreadsheet used the examples of the current rate, adding additional charges for anything over 1,000 gallons over the base rate, anything over 5,000 gallons over the base rate and anything over 10,000 gallons over the base rate. If either the 10,000 or the 5,000 gallon rate is used, very little change is noticed. The increase is fairly dramatic if the 1,000 gallon rate is used, with bills increasing anywhere from 15% to almost 40%. Mr. Bradshaw explained that he believed this to be too sharp of an increase, and it would discourage people from using water, which would decrease our water revenues. Further, the City actually needs more sewer effluent to be run through our plant as we need the water on the farm. The loss of our industrial customers in the last few years has dramatically

decreased our water source in the irrigation ponds for our wastewater treatment facility farm.

Discussion ensued on the subject.

Councilor Humbert commented that he had suggested these ideas in order to raise additional revenue to purchase a compactor for the city's landfill and also to establish a separate fund dedicated to the replacement and improvement of aged infrastructure in our utilities.

After additional discussion, it was the consensus of the Council to leave the billing system as it is. However the City Manager stated staff would be researching the feasibility and legality of adding a flat rate surcharge onto utility bills to pay for infrastructure improvements.

The Council then took a 10 minute recess at 4:30 p.m.

Next discussed was the City's Utility Capital Replacement Schedules for all City utilities.

The City Manager and Public Works Trainee went over all long term capital improvement infrastructure schedules for each of the utilities.

It was explained that while the lists were written and bound, they were also "working documents" which means the lists are re-evaluated each year and occasionally adjusted as reality and different use schedules come into play. For example, on the street maintenance capital replacement schedule, NW 5th Evans to Lamb project had jumped ahead on the schedule due to Earl Brown and Son's business growing resulting in more trucks using the street and more wear and tear on that particular street.

Council discussed the schedules.

The City Manager then gave an update on the request by the Blue Mountain Horticultural Society for the City to remove their crabapple trees at the south substation. Ms. Palmer told the Council that the City had removed trees at the request of the Society in the Northern region of the City, and had been following their recommendations for spraying the existing trees twice a year. She continued to state she had been quite surprised to learn the Society wanted us to now remove the trees. She finished by stating she would work with Mike Charlo, Electric Superintendent to determine if the trees needed to be

removed, and if so, when the City would be able to accomplish this.

The Council then discussed the possibility of building an Off Road Vehicle (ORV) park on property located at the City farm. No action was taken on the idea.

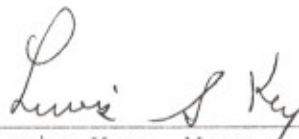
The City Manager then reported that Dave Bradshaw would be pulling our own asbestos samples from the recently purchased property across from City Hall on Columbia Street. Ms. Palmer reported Mr. Bradshaw was qualified to pull the samples, which will be sent to Coffee Laboratories for testing and final analysis. Mr. Bradshaw stated he was waiting until the new cell at the landfill is open as the landfill cannot currently handle the additional debris that tearing the subject house down would generate.

Councilor Lyon shared that he had received complaints from citizens again over excessive noise coming from parties hosted at the community building. It was recommended that the neighbors call the police at the time of the disturbance so police officers could cite the offending parties.

Councilor Lyon also shared that he had been receiving quite a few complaints about the landscaping near the underpass at the northern entrance to town. Ms. Palmer explained this was not the City's jurisdiction, but instead was the responsibility of Oregon Department of Transportation. Mr. Bradshaw added that the City had taken on some of the abatement of the landscaping in an effort to "spruce up" the entrance to our city, and had tried to take advantage of Community Corrections Team to assist our staff, but they had been difficult to reach lately.

The subject of re-instituting the City of Milton-Freewater newsletter was discussed. It was suggested by Councilor Lyon that once we get the newsletter out, that it be left around town in coffee shops and local restaurants as well as being put out in the utility bills.

There being no further discussions, the work session was adjourned at 5:30 p.m.



Lewis Key, Mayor